PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 5938 KAUFFMAN AVENUE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Acting Chair Haddad

2. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner Baroldi, Rosso, Tarin, Haddad

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto, Ryan McKay and Ying-Yu Hung of SWA Group and Parks and Recreation Secretary Venters

ABSENT: Vance

Commissioner Rosso moved to excuse Chair Vance for due cause. Seconded by Commissioner Tarin and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioner – Baroldi, Rosso, Tarin, Haddad
NOES: Commissioner – None
ABSENT: Commissioner – Vance
ABSTAIN: Commissioner – None

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Acting Chair Haddad led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **PRESENTATIONS** - None

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA** - None

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR** - None

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None

8. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Playground Renovation Project Concept Design Review

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto briefed the Commission regarding the events that took place to establish the Playground Renovation Project. He stated that during the process the City secured a contract with SWA Group to design the playground renovation at Live Oak Park and Temple City Park. He stated that an Ad Hoc Committee was formed to

review the concept design and budget for each park renovation. He then introduced SWA Group to the Commission.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group introduced fellow colleague and Principal Ying-Yu Hung to the Commission. He stated that SWA Group conducted a survey during the Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast event, gaining approximately 400 responses from the public regarding the Playground Renovation Project. He stated that the consensus from the public was a desire to incorporate a space themed playground in commemoration of the nostalgic rocket ship that used to occupy Live Oak Park.

He stated that the City Council were presented with two designs for a space themed playground. He stated that the City Council preferred the conceptual design being presented to the Commission. He stated that the playground design is separated into various zones with the rocket ship being the core play structure. He stated that adjacent to the rocket ship would be a spinner, a space station tower, activity panels and tunnel. He stated that along the outer edge would be a play area dedicated to children between the ages of two and five years. He stated that exercise equipment would be placed on the opposite side of the outer edge near the walking track. He stated that the playground would be surrounded by seating benches and shade structures. He stated that that the primary play area includes a meteor shower climb, tunnels and a rover climber. He stated that the play area dedicated for two to five year olds includes slides and swings. He concluded that the playground renovation at Live Oak is estimated to cost 3.5 million dollars.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the rocket would be a four-level structure. He stated that the first level sits on an elevated base and the top portion of the rocket ship is closed. He invited the Commission to provide input on the conceptual design of the playground renovation at Live Oak Park.

Commissioner Tarin shared his gratitude regarding the work put forth in designing the playground. He expressed concern regarding the slide on the rocket being too long, resulting in children becoming stuck, children falling in the corkscrew on the blue tower, children climbing the rocket from the exterior, children becoming stuck in the looping portion of the Hedra swing, children hanging from the upper portion of the play equipment, aluminum benches becoming hot, sleeping in the tunnel and overall line of sight. He noted that he would like the space station to be transparent as he is concerned about the safety of children.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group, stated that the play equipment is required to meet a safety code to prevent children from becoming stuck. He stated that in the event a child may fall the flooring will be rubberized to assist in injury protection. He concluded that the tunnel will be 32 inches long and placed along the outer portion of the play area to mitigate overnight occupancy.

Commissioner Rosso asked Mr. McKay if the shade structure would be one piece or several pieces, if the tower and rocket are together, how wide the ramp would be, if the rover toy moves, if the noodle swing is intended for several people, if a large child could fit on the spinner and height of the shade structure.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that the shade structures will be several pieces, a tunnel separates the space station from the rocket ship, he would have to confirm the width of the ramp, the rover climber does not move, the noodle swing can hold several children, large children can fit on the spinner and the shade structures range between 24 and 28 feet tall.

Commissioner Baroldi asked Mr. McKay if an adult can enter the rocket ship and space station tower in the event a child needs assistance getting out or is injured.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that structural accessibility for adults at Live Oak Park would be similar to Primrose Park.

Acting Chair Haddad complemented SWA Group regarding their playground design. She echoed the same concerns as fellow Commissioner Tarin regarding line of sight and the length of the slide on the rocket. She is in favor of the color scheme of the floor area. She asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto how the ground covering would be maintained, if additional swings and benches could be included, if there is a swing that is ADA compliant and if a star design could be included in the shade structure.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the rubberized flooring would be resealed every 18 to 24 months to maintain the lifespan of the flooring. He added that the City is budgeting for a rubberized flooring replacement in future years. He stated that there are fall clearance requirements for swings, however a regular swing may be able to be replaced with an ADA compliant swing. He stated that he could explore installing additional benches, however opportunity for shade may be reduced.

Commissioner Tarin asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if spare parts are included in the quote and for the life expectancy of the shade structures.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the size of the structures is standard and interchangeable however spare parts are not included in the quote.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that the lifespan of the shade structure is between ten to fifteen years.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto reviewed the suggestions made by the Commission for the City Council to consider including clear paneling installed along the space station fixture and slide, explore alternative seating material for benches, additional seating, ADA option for a swing, projection of star shapes from the shade structures and to make sure the tunnels are not long enough to sleep in. He then addressed the concern of the Commission regarding various components of the playground. He stated that all play equipment has strict guidelines for fall and entrapment concerns but will confirm and reiterate that codes are being met, accessibility points to children include the space station feature and green tower. He asked the Commission if they had additional questions or comments.

Acting Chair Haddad asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto for the next step in the Park Renovation Project.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that suggestions by the Commission will be brought forth to the City Council for consideration.

The Commission did not have additional questions or comments at this time regarding the design for the renovation at Live Oak Park.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that an outreach was also conducted for the Park Renovation Project at Temple City Park during the Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake event. He stated that the public opted for a bamboo forest theme. He stated that in order to get the most use out of the square footage of the playground the barbeque area will be removed, and the exercise equipment has been removed from the plan. He stated that features include a net climber monkey bar, spinner, sensory panels, bamboo house climber, two swings, a revitalized picnic shelter and landscape buffering.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the design of the playground is muted to highlight the pavilion which is the statement piece of Temple City Park and blend in with the natural setting of the park.

Commissioner Rosso asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto why the exercise equipment was eliminated from the original plan, if a person could see through the bamboo structure and what would be included in the sensory panels.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City wanted to focus on youth play as opposed to an adult element.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that the sensory panel includes a spiral, a crank and moveable item.

Commissioner Tarin asked Mr. McKay if sensory panels emit sound and for additional information regarding the picnic shelter. He commented that two swings may not be enough.

Ryan McKay, Project Manager, SWA Group stated that one of the panels emit a low sound when buttons are pressed. He stated that the swings are the largest component for space that needs to be maintained. He stated that the picnic shelter would be sanded and repainted and LED fixtures would be installed.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that other playground equipment would have to be removed to accommodate the fall zones if an additional swing was included.

Acting Chair Haddad asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto for clarification regarding the previously proposed musical component, if the barbeques are being used at Temple City Park and Live Oak Park and if the picnic shelter at Live Oak Park can be refreshed.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the decision to eliminate the music component was staff driven to mitigate late night noise and to accommodate events that may require moments of silence, the barbeques at Temple City Park and Live Oak Park are sometimes used and the City could explore options for repainting the picnic shelter at Live Oak Park. He stated that the estimated cost to renovate both parks is $3.9 million. He stated that funding sources include American Rescue Act Funds and the General Fund Reserve. He stated that if the design is finalized during the month of September Temple City Park could be opened in June of 2024 and Live Oak Park in late 2024 if there are no construction delays.

Acting Chair Haddad asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto when the City Council is meeting to consider the Playground Renovation Project.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City Council will consider the Playground Renovation Project on September 19, 2023.

Acting Chair Haddad opened the item for public comment. No one from the public came forth. Acting Chair Haddad closed the item for public comment. The Commission had no further questions or comments.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m. to the Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 7:30 p.m.

Kristel Haddad, Acting-Chair

ATTEST:

Jennifer Venters, Secretary